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DI09 Rec'd PGT/PTO 03 SEP 2004

Our Reference: SPM-379-A

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Volker Krink, et al.
Serial Number: Unknown
Filing Date: Concurrent
Examiner/Art Group Unit: Unknown/Unknown
Title: ELECTRODE ELEMENT FOR PLASMA
TORCHES AND A METHOD FOR THE
PRODUCTION OF SAME

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The references listed in the attached form PTO-1449 are cited pursuant to Rule 37 C.F.R. 1.56 to meet the duty to disclose to the Patent Office all information known to the inventor, attorney or any other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application or who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.

The information may include:

- (1) Prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) The closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of the patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and (e)(2) this Information Disclosure Statement includes the following Certification that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person

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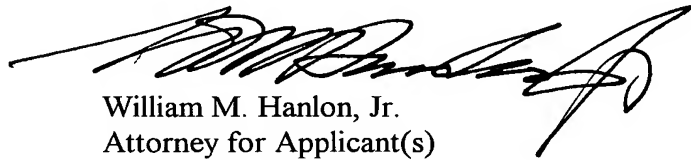
signing the Certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

A copy of each cited U. S. reference is not enclosed pursuant to United States Patent and Trademark Office OG Notices: 05 August 2003 which waives the requirement to submit a copy of each cited U.S. Patent and U.S. Patent Application Publication for all U.S. National Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003.

A copy of each required cited reference is enclosed, if required.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 3, 2004
WMH/dge

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Sheet 1 of 1

FORM PTO-1449 LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT				ATTY. DOCKET NO. SPM-379-A		SERIAL NO. UNKNOWN	
				APPLICANT Volker Krink et al.			
				FILING DATE Concurrent		GROUP Unknown	
U. S. PATENT DOCUMENT							
EXAMINER INITIALS		PATENT NO.	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	AA	6,130,399	Oct. 10, 2000	Lu et al.	219	121	July 20, 1998
	AB	5,767,478	June 16, 1998	Walters	219	121.52	Aug. 14, 1997
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						
FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED PATENT APPLICATION							
		DOCUMENT NO.	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL	EP0437915	July 24, 1991	Europe			
	AM	EP0334981	October 4, 1989	Europe			
	AN						
	AO						
	AP						
OTHER REFERENCES (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
	AR	Copy of International Search Report dated August 25, 2003					
	AS						
	AT						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							